

Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

52 F

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington

F.S.
CF-55

June 25, 1928

FOREIGN NEWS ON CITRUS FRUIT

GRAPEFRUIT SITUATION IN PORTO RICO

The extended drought in Porto Rico, which has caused heavy damage and delay to the blooming of grapefruit trees for the 1928-29 season, was broken late in May by heavy rains, according to a report received in the Foreign Service of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics from Mr. Roland Welch, acting in charge of the office of the American Trade Commissioner in San Juan, Porto Rico. The rains brought out a new bloom which is reported to be larger than any previous bloom in the grapefruit industry in Porto Rico. The present bloom, however, is late and is not expected to produce fruit until December 1928. This allows considerable time for other factors to alter present harvest indications.

According to present prospects, if only a fair percentage of the new bloom sets and materializes, the winter production of grapefruit would be one of the largest in many years. The extended drought killed the first bloom and there will be little or no fruit for the usual shipments of July and August, and probably only a small amount will be available for shipment in September. The drought materially damaged the fruit ripening on trees and much of it fell off before reaching maturity. Shipments of the new crop, therefore, will not be heavy until the winter harvest becomes available.

The 1927-28 grapefruit season of Porto Rico is now practically at an end. In every respect it was one of the most successful seasons ever experienced. Shipments to the United States up to the end of April 1928 already amounted to 880,000 boxes. Total shipments to the United States up to the end of June last year amounted to 692,000 boxes.

Figures for shipments of grapefruit from Porto Rico to the United States during the last six years are as follows:

GRAPEFRUIT: Exports to the United States, 1922-23 to 1927-28
(Years ending June 30)

Year	Quantity	Value
	<u>Boxes</u>	<u>Dollars</u>
1922-23	460,951	1,382,350
1923-24	666,648	1,998,869
1924-25	579,736	1,756,015
1925-26	809,038	2,479,487
1926-27	692,052	2,095,903
1927-28 ^{a/}	880,413	2,467,624

^{a/} Ten months ending April 30, 1928.

